Rensselaer County News

Letters To The Editor

A Place At The Table

Dear Friends

This week I have a special invitation for you to learn more about the work of Catholic Charities Tri County Services! We are a part of a fundraising effort called A Place at the Table virtual event. Each day this week, I'll be sending an email that contains a video highlighting the work of Catholic Charities Tri-County Services and the people they serve. The money we raise from A Place at the Table will benefit five outreach programs located throughout both urban and rural communities in Albany and Rensselaer counties. More than 16,000 people within our local communities will be helped through our support.

My goal is to raise \$5,000 and help the overall event goal of \$100,000. It's important for me to personally support our neighbors because now, more than ever, they are relying on organizations like Catholic Charites. They are hungry and struggling to meet life's challenges and it's our responsibility to help our local community members to bridge the gap.

Many thanks, peace in your day, Sr. Betsy Van Deusen, CSJ Betsy's Boisterous Bunch Charities (mobilecause.com) Text to Give: Give4Food15 or 71777 To mail a check for A Place at the Table, please send to: Catholic Charities Tri-County Amenities PO Box 28, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Many Scholarships...So Few Applicants

I realize that Senior year in high school is a busy time. One of the last things a student wants to think about is applying for scholarships. Parents and students, I urge you to take the time to find and apply for all of the scholarships that you can. The local scholarships are a good place to start. Your guidance office has these applications. They would happily help you fill them out.

As a parent and a retired teacher, I am offering to help any student, through email, over the phone or inperson with scholarship applications. I only ask that you do not wait until the day before the deadline to contact me. I can help you brainstorm ideas if an essay is needed, help you select people for references and proofread your application once complete. Please feel free to contact me at 518-795-0509 or mosher consult@gmail.com (put scholarship in the subject line). College is not cheap! Take advantage of your

Dianne Mosher Retired Teacher BCSD

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Allowing 12 and 13 Year Olds To Hunt

introduced a Local Law that will allow 12 and 13 year olds to hunt under the supervision of a licensed adult

The recently adopted New York State Budget includes legislation that allows youths to hunt deer with a firearm or crossbow. This special provision is

TROY

New Assistant DA



Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly (left) with newly appointed ADA Kimberly Sullivan.

Rensselaer County District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly is pleased to announce a new Assistant District Attorney, Kimberly Sullivan of Greenwich, has ioined her team.

Kimberly Sullivan, Esq., recently graduated from Albany Law School and has been admitted to the NYS Bar. Sullivan interned at the Washington County District Attorney's Office, where she litigated in city criminal court. Prior to that she was an intern in the Albany County District Attorney's Office assigned to the Special Victims Unit, where she represented the people on sex offender registration hearings.

District Attorney Mary Pat Donnelly welcomed Sullivan and added, "I am committed to keeping Rensselaer County safe and strengthening community trust in the judicial system. We are excited to have Kimberly on our team as she is a dedicated attorney that will assist our office with Domestic Violence cases.'

The Rensselaer County Legislature Majority has available to upstate counties that must opt-in by local law in order to participate.

> Several local rod and gun clubs, and hunting enthusiasts, have reached out to Legislators urging Rensselaer County to opt in to the state's new pilot program.

> 'Rensselaer County is passing this local law because hunting is a valued tradition for many families, and this new opportunity allows experienced, adult hunters to introduce the value of hunting to the next generation," said Majority Leader Ken Herrington - Brunswick.

> "I am excited to see the youth of our county have the opportunity to learn gun safety, the rules of hunting, and enjoy the experience of hunting under the supervision of an experienced hunter," said Legislator Todd Tesman – Johnsonville.

> The supervising adult must remain at ground level at all times.

> The legislature will consider the law at its May 11

The Eastwick Press



34 Richmond Road Cropseyville, NY 12052



Telephone: 518-203-7574

email: news@eastwickpress.com

Advertising Dept.: ads@eastwickpress.com Doug La Rocque, Editor & Publisher Tom Withcuskey, Publisher Steve Bradley, Sports Editor Miranda Sehl, Graphic Designer Heidi Woofenden, Executive Assistant

Reporters: Alex Brooks, Amy Modesti, Denise Wright, Chris Tergliafera

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The 2020 Census Will Change the Political Landscape

Monthly Legislative Minority Column

As a result of the 2020 Census, communities across America will have the opportunity and the obligation to redistrict. Redistricting is the process of redrawing the lines that define political districts. This occurs after the completion of the federal census every 10 years.

This year the Census Bureau's data shall be delivered to all states at once in and around September 30, instead of on a roll-out basis as had been done in the past. This will allow the Census Bureau to deliver complete and accurate redistricting data in a timelier fashion overall for the states.

The redistricting data includes counts of population by race, ethnicity, voting age, housing status, and group quarters population such as nursing homes, military

bases, and the like. This is the information that states need to redraw or "redistrict" their legislative boundaries.

Each state uses the census data to draw congressional districts, as well as new state legislative districts.

In most states, the legislature produces the maps. Lawmakers often try to draw lines in a manner most favorable to their party, a process known as gerrymandering.

Gerrymandering is the practice of setting boundaries for voting districts in a way that benefits one political party over the other. "This process can be upsetting to many because it often is done to disenfranchise minority voters and in some cases has led to an increase in political polarization," said Minority Leader Peter Grimm.

"Gerrymandering historically distorts representation.

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